

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 27, 2014

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of January 13, 2013 special meeting, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked when does the public get answers to questions if they are not answered during the meeting. Mr. Hossack clarified his statement concerning support for additional water resources referenced at a previous meeting.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, submitted an editorial from the Daily Campus critical of the Storrs Center project and again asked about planned partnerships with UConn or private sector business. (Statement and editorial attached)

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, questioned why a previous member of the UConn Board of Trustees' law firm has applied for the Town Attorney position. Mr. Smith also raised a number of issues which he says show a pattern and practice of censorship and denial of first amendment free speech rights. Mr. Smith submitted a January 13, 2014 letter. (Letter attached)

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager stated that he tries to answer questions of facts raised by the public during the meeting. Policy issues or opinions addressed to Town Council members may be addressed at their discretion. Other than the Storrs Center project there are no active public/private partnerships, but that does not mean there will not be any in the future.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Shapiro reported that Mr. Rome left the UConn Board of Trustees in 2001.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to move Item 4, UConn Innovative Partnership Building Comparative Evaluation, as the next item of business. Motion passed unanimously.

By consensus the Council agreed to make Item 2, Town Council Goal Setting, as the last item of business.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. UCONN Landfill, Long-Term Monitoring Report
Informational material provided.

2. Town Council Goal Setting
Councilors discussed issues for inclusion in the updated Town Council Goals. Suggested issues were noted by the Assistant Town Manager and will be categorized and returned to the Council for review.

3. Storrs Center Update

January 27, 2014

Projects were discussed at the January 25, 2014 budget retreat.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. UCONN Innovative Partnership Building Comparative Evaluation

Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter reviewed the comments suggested as a response to the evaluation and outlined the approval process. UConn Project Director Paul Ferri addressed members' questions regarding the design of the buildings, concerns raised regarding the proximity of vernal pools, previous traffic concerns, and an unidentified trail.

The Traffic Authority will review the suggested comments at their January 28, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to authorize the Mayor to co-endorse a letter to the University regarding the Innovative Partnership Building Comparative Evaluation. The letter shall include the comments identified in the Town Manager's Memo dated January 27, 2014 and any additional comments suggested by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kegler and Ms. Wassmundt.

5. Classification – Outreach Social Worker

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, described the proposed personnel changes to the Human Services Department.

Ms. Moran moved, effective January 27, 2014, to create the classification of Outreach Social Worker and set the pay grade for the position at grade 15, salary range of \$25.57/hr-\$33.21/hr of the Town Administrators pay plan.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Building Permit Fee for Educational Playcare LLC

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, effective January 27, 2014, to refer the request from Educational Playcare LLC for a reduction in the building permit fee for its project in Storrs Center to the Finance Committee, to review and to develop a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments were offered.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran reported the Personnel Committee has been working on the newly approved Human Services position and thanked Director Pat Schneider for her input. The Committee has also been reviewing applications for the Town Attorney. Four firms will be interviewed in mid-February. All Council members will be apprised of the time and place of the interviews.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hart noted that the two supplementary items distributed to Council members this evening will be added to the next packet.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

Ms. Raymond requested new members of the Council be brought up to speed regarding current claims and litigations involving the Town.

Ms. Wassmundt requested a review and discussion of the Town Council Rules of Procedure and Roberts Rules of Order. Specifically Ms. Wassmundt would like to discuss adherence to the agenda, proper acknowledgement of members of the audience, and how Council members can receive outside communications.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk